

15. (new) The insulating material of claim 14,
wherein said flax fibers are present in an amount of 20-30
percent by weight based on the total weight of said material.

REMARKS

Applicant acknowledges a telephone call from the examiner in charge on or about March 26, 2002, making an oral restriction requirement. Applicant has not yet responded to the oral restriction requirement, and also has not received any written restriction requirement.

If a written restriction requirement is issued, applicant will traverse same on the basis that (1) the restriction requirement is improper for reasons given below, and (2) even if proper, there should be no restriction requirement on the basis of the second paragraph of MPEP 803, because it would not constitute a serious burden to examine both groups together. Applicant considers that such a restriction requirement would not be proper (first basis) because the product as claimed can only be made by the method as claimed, and not by any materially different method; and the method as claimed can only produce the claimed product, not one which is materially different.

A review of the claims has revealed that at least claims 5-12 as originally presented were improperly multi-dependent under U.S. practice and would not have been

examined. Accordingly, the preliminary amendment presented above is made to place these claims in a form in which such claims will be examined.

Applicant respectfully requests a favorable examination on the merits of all of the claims presently pending.

Respectfully submitted,

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By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Neimark', written over a horizontal line.

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Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

The Title:

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY ~~ISOLATION~~ INSULATING MATERIAL AND
METHOD FOR PRODUCING MANUFACTURING THEREOF

In the Claims:

1. (Amended) An environmentally friendly
insulating material ~~for insulating buildings etc.~~ which does
not contain substances which are harmful or irritating to
people and which does not release harmful substances/dust into
the buildings' indoor air,

characterized in that the insulating material
consists of fabric remnants which are shredded into a shoddy
mass and then mixed with flax ~~fibres~~ fibers and a fibrous
polyester with a low melting point to form a homogenous mass,
which is then ~~moulded~~ molded into the desired shape and heat-
treated until the polyester ~~fibres~~ fibers melt, bonding the
fabric and flax ~~fibres~~ fibers together.

3. (Amended) An insulating material according to
~~claims 1-2~~ claim 1 or 2,

characterized in that the polyester is any kind of
polyester which exists in fibrous form, which has a melting
point in the range 100-300°C, ~~preferably in the range 100-~~
~~200°C and most preferably in the range 120-170°C,~~ and which

has a dtex value in the range 2-10, ~~more preferably from 2.5-6, and most preferably from 3-5.~~

4. (Amended) An insulating material according to claim 3,

characterized in that the polyester is preferably added in the range of 5-50 percent by weight, ~~more preferably 10-30 percent by weight and most preferably 15-20 percent by weight,~~ based on the material's total weight.

5. (Amended) An insulating material according to ~~claims 1-4~~ claim 1 or 2,

characterized in that the flax ~~fibres~~ fibers are preferably added in the range of 5-50 percent by weight, ~~more preferably 15-40 percent by weight and most preferably 20-30 percent by weight,~~ based on the material's total weight.

6. (Amended) An insulating material according to ~~claims 1-5~~ claim 1 or 2,

characterized in that a fire-retardant agent is added to the insulating material in order to obtain approved fire resistance according to standard NT FIRE 035.

8. (Amended) An insulating material according to ~~claims 1-7~~ claim 1 or 2,

characterized in that the shoddy mass is mixed with
~~from 0 to 40 percent by weight~~ recycled cardboard and/or
wastepaper which is shredded into ~~fibres~~fibers,
said recycled cardboard and/or wastepaper being
present in an amount no greater than 40% by weight.

9. (Amended) An insulating material according to
~~claims 1-8~~claim 1,

characterized in that the insulating material is
formed into mats with a length of 1.20 m, a width within 0.58-
1.00 m and a thickness within 5-15 cm.

10. (Amended) A method for production of
insulating material according to ~~claims 1-9~~claim 1,

characterized in that the process comprises the
following stages:

- passing the collected clothes/fabric remnants to
means for tearing them to bits and removing all non-fabric
items ~~such as~~including buttons, ~~zip~~zippers, and buckles ~~etc.~~,

- passing the fabric remnants to a shoddy machine
which further shreds the fabrics into individual ~~fibres~~fibers
and mixes the mass into a homogenous shoddy,

- passing the shredded fabric remnants to means for
adding a ~~suitable~~pre-selected amount of flax ~~fibres~~fibers
and fibrous polyester, and for air blasting the shoddy and

polyester mass, thus mixing them to form an aerated and homogenous shoddy mass with flax and polyester ~~fibrefiber~~,
fiber,

- passing the shoddy mass to means for ~~moulding~~
molding the shoddy mass into a mat or another geometric shape with the desired measurement, and

- passing the mat to means for heat-treating the mat until the polyester ~~fibres~~ fibers melt, bonding the fabric and flax ~~fibres~~ fibers together.

11. (Amended) A method for production of insulating material according to claim 10,

characterized in that the following quantities are preferably-mixed in, based on the total mass,

- preferably 5-50 percent by weight, ~~more preferably 10-30 percent by weight and most preferably 15-20 percent by weight~~ polyester,

- preferably 5-50 percent by weight, ~~more preferably 15-40 percent by weight and most preferably 20-30 percent by weight~~ flax ~~fibres~~ fibers in the fabric remnants, and

- up to 2.5 kg of fire-retardant agent ~~1~~ per m³ of shoddy mass, and that the heat treatment involves heating the ready-moulded ~~molded~~ shoddy mass to the range of

~~preferably 100-300°C, more preferably 100-200°C~~
~~And most preferably 120-170°C.~~

12. (Amended) A method for production of an insulating material according to ~~claims 10-11~~ claim 11,

characterized in that cardboard and/or paper are added to the fabric remnants in a quantity ~~from 0~~ of up to 40 percent by weight in the first stage of the method ~~indicated in claim 10, i.e. the means for shredding the fabric remnants and removing all non-fabric items such as buttons, zips, buckles etc.~~